

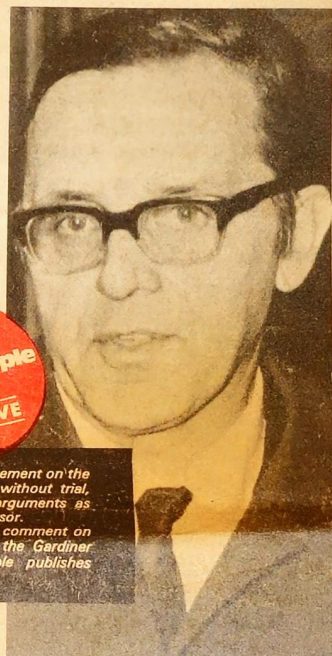
The Irish People

AN CHOISMHUINTIR
Vol. 2 No. 36 Price 6p.
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1974

DUBLIN RENT STRIKE
SEE PAGE 3.



British Army shut down Northern peace activists



Joint architects of the demise of the Northern Ireland Community Relations Commission were Mr. Ivan Cooper and Mr. Merlyn Rees, Secretary of State.

There has been increasing criticism coming from the SDLP of the failure of Mr. Rees to stand up to pressure from the higher ranks of the British Army on the issues of internment and harassment.

Mr. Rees, in his most recent statement on the question of phasing out detention without trial, has, in fact, reiterated the same arguments as were put out by his Tory predecessor.

Mr. Rees was not available for comment on the contents of the submission to the Gardiner Committee which the Irish People publishes below.

BATTERED COMMUNITY

In the Irish People, August 30 we gave an account of the decision of Mr. Ivan Cooper, former Assembly Minister for Community Relations, to shut down the Northern Community Relations. At that time we said that it was "the one government agency which had succeeded in bridging the chasm

which divided the two communities in the North".

Mr. Cooper argued in the Assembly that the Commissions' autonomy had proved a disadvantage and had served particularly to downgrade the connections of politicians with community groups.

Additional information has now come into our possession in the form of a submission to the Gardiner Committee set up by Mr. Merlyn Rees, Secretary of State, to enquire into "the provisions and powers required to deal with terrorism and subversion". While the document is signed by Mr. J. W. Burton,

Director, Centre for the analysis of Conflict, it has been read by the Director of the Community Relations and some of his staff and they are in general and particular agreement.

CORK DOCKERS INTERVENTION

Cork dockers are holding a meeting this week to discuss sending a picket to Foynes, Co. Limerick, to block the floating refrigerated meat warehouse, the Samoan Reefer, currently being loaded with 4,500 tons of intervention beef.

There is also the possibility of the dockers being joined by

fishermen who are reported as being angry at the take-over of all refrigerated warehouses to store unsaleable beef. The Irish fishing industry is threatened by the absence of cold storage facilities, according to Frank Gallagher, Killybegs, National Fishermen's Defence Association.

TO BACK PAGE

The Irish People

An Choismhuintir, Friday, Sept. 13, 1974

Northern Aid

There are lies, damned lies and statistics and one cannot help feeling that there is something in Professor Kennedy Lindsay's comment on the British Green Paper, that it is a "dishonest pre-election pamphlet" with facts omitted or taken out of context.

Economics, apart from being a dismal science, is not as preciously accurate as the dons would have wondering laymen believe. And the admitted fact in the Green Paper that it is impossible to disentangle crucial areas of expenditure, the flow of dividend and interest payments, which relates to the key economic variable of investment, must cast doubt on the overall accuracy of Mr. Rees's sums.

Furthermore, the paper must be criticised on its narrow interpretation of cost/benefit analysis. Are we to believe that Britain gave £313 million with no visible or invisible returns (benefits) whatsoever? That the old Lady of Threadneedle Street would be so generous must strain the imagination of the most rabid Orangeman.

Benefits there certainly are, not costed in the Paper. For example, the flow of skilled workers to Britain from the North. A considerable capital gift to the United Kingdom.

That may seem to be carping but for a document of this type to be persuasive, then it must involve an analysis of all relevant economic variables. It should disentangle the complex tax payments, personal and sales, dividends and profits and attempt to assess invisible benefits.

There is also Mr. John Taylor's argument. There is a growing need to "speculate or explain the financial benefits which could arise if the North were independent of Great Britain". Until that is done then Mr. Rees cannot hope to have his Paper accepted no matter what colour he says it is.

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"We don't hint—we print"

Residents of the Liberties in Dublin did not know whether to be scared or amused as a modern farce of cops and robbers was played out in front of their eyes last week.

While the law blocked off flats in the area in an attempt to head them off, pint-sized gangsters, of a ripe old age of ten years, told bemused residents to stick 'em up and tried ineffectually to rob a number of gas meters. Armed with real guns!

The local account of the story has it that two special branch men nipped in for a quick one last week, leaving their guns behind them in their car. But not for long.

They were removed by undersized mafiosi from Oliver Bond flats, who proceeded to bust up the area with their new found armory. The skill of local 'chisellers' at picking car locks has been known to provoke reluctant admiration from grown-ups in the area. They now command the respect of the special branch.

Rumour has it that ice cream vans, making deliveries, have now been given a police escort, known locally as the 'sweetie patrol' while local shopkeepers are reported to be making special security arrangements for their gob-stopper stands.

No one has yet been shot by the mob but at last sighting they were still galloping around the flats, eluding and hotly pursued by a trail of desperate and by now despairing guardians of the law.

Anyone for Bonanza?

Spare the rod. . .!



LONGFORD TEXTILE WORKERS' PROTEST

COUNTDOWN

Belfast

Houses provided by the the Housing Executive at Brooke Park, Suffolk, were described as "cardboard boxes" and the occupants have accused the Executive of failing to carry out even elementary repairs. Residents complain that their houses are flooded and ceilings collapse every time there is heavy rain while many blame a defective sewerage system for recent illnesses.

Electricity has now been cut off for fear of short circuiting because the houses are so damp.

Ballisodare

Thirty-eight men were made redundant when the Pollexfens Flour Mills closed down last week. Odlums, which control the Pollexfens Mills, have offered the mill site for sale and only the animal and poultry provender section is to be kept in production.

Odlums also own the Euroglas Ltd. factory in Newbridge, where the majority of workers are to be made redundant within a week.

Drogheda

Fourteen trade unionists have called for an emergency meeting of Drogheda Trade Union Council to seek the immediate release of two local brothers who have been jailed by the Special Criminal Court for membership of the I.R.A. The fourteen men are members of the I.T.G.W.U., A.S.T.I., A.T.G.W.U. and L.U.D.W.

Enniscorthy

A demarcation dispute between the E.S.B.'s linesmen

and electricians has prevented ninety-two families from occupying newly completed local authority houses at The Shannon. Electricians refused to connect applicants in areas originally serviced by linesmen with the result that tenants, many of whom are on the Priority List, cannot move into their new homes. The houses are already a year overdue.

Donègal

The unification of five areas into one centralised Gaeltacht will be the subject of a seminar which is to be held in Fintown, in mid-October. The five areas involved are Glenfin, Leitribrick, Doohary, Fintown and Edenfinagh.

The provision of jobs, in the context of one united Gaeltacht area, for the six hundred workers available will be the immediate priority if the amalgamation goes through followed closely by that of securing adequate second level education through the medium of Irish.

Wexford

The accumulation of a floating 'meat mountain' stored on freezer ships in Bantry Bay, while "people lived in dire poverty" was condemned by Wexford Corporation at its meeting last week.

The issue was raised by Councillor Joe Furling who complained that while the British Army in Germany was among those who had been approached to buy the storage meat, 20 per cent of the people in Ireland were on the poverty line. The Corporation accepted a suggestion that other local authority bodies should also be requested to condemn the stockpiling of beef by the E.E.C.

On 19 July last, John P. Maguire of 17 Ballsbridge Terrace, auctioneer and landlord, received planning permission for the construction of twelve luxury flats, on the site of 41/43 Park Avenue, Sandymount. Next October, the same John P. Maguire will make another of a series of court appearances for having built, without planning permission, an unauthorised extension to 41/43 Park Avenue. And while the right hand of the Corporation's Planning Department does not know what its left hand is doing, five families remaining in the house have appealed against the granting of planning permission and have gone on rent strike in pursuit of immediate repairs to their living accommodation.

Tenants in the house listed a wide range of defects for their landlord's attention. The list reads: Contaminated drinking water; blocked sewers due to inadequate piping; no hot water in flats; no electricity in the downstairs bathroom; rising damp in walls and floors; loose guttering and piping; missing and ill-fitting windows and doors; no lights in hallway; rubbish piled in hallway; no locks, no gates, no post-boxes, no caretaking facilities; leaking overhead tanks from which water seeps down through the building; no lids on overhead tanks, exposing them to contamination; birds and vermin in the attic and illegal entry to the flats, by the landlord, in the tenants' absence. No receipts for rent payments are provided.

The decision to go on rent strike was taken when the rent collector, a Mr. Mannion, refused to accept the repairs list and quit notices were served immediately after the withholding of rent.

Last week, relations deteriorated further when, after the landlord emptied the E.S.B. meters on Monday, electricity to the house was cut off the following day, leaving tenants, all of whom have young children, without light or cooking facilities. Tenants later restored the electricity with the help of local Sinn Féin Citizens Advice Bureau.

Only five families are still left in the house, which has a total of twenty-two flats. Two of these families are living in the unauthorised extension but complaints over the standard of accommodation apply equally to both parts of the building. Mr. and Mrs. Byrne came to Park Avenue after their previous landlord, Thomas Naughton, 16 York Rd., Rathmines, ordered them to quit because they were



Court action is pending against landlord, John P. Maguire, for extending this house without planning permission.

Rent strike as repairs are refused

about to have a baby. This time they are determined to stay put.

Matters are at stalemate for the time being but for the remaining tenants, the situation is precarious. While anxious to stay in their homes they have no guarantee of success in their planning appeal and if the appeal decision goes against them, Mr. Maguire may, with the blessings of the law, evict them to demolish a house, part of which he built without legal permission.

BELFAST TAXIS HOUSED

The burnt-out remains of one of the 'Peoples' Taxis, Falls Rd., Belfast. Diverted by the British Army due to a supposed bomb scare the taxi, one of three, came under attack from a mob of petrol bombing youths in Upper Springfield Road. This is a border zone, scene of many sectarian riots and murders. Feeling among taxi drivers is that the British Army deliberately re-routed the taxis into an area where a mob had already gathered.



Picture by Brendan Murphy.

The Irish People PEOPLE

CHRISTOPHER NOLAN

"Larkin was a great man for the worker. God almighty sent him down to help the workers of this city. He was the only man who made sacrifices for the working class in the city — he made sacrifices because he organised them."

This comes from a man who knew Jim Larkin like his own shadow and worked alongside him in the early struggle to unionise the Dublin workers. His first cousin was married to Big Jim but it is not simply family loyalty that makes Christopher Nolan say that. He remembers well the poverty and degradation, the merciless manipulation of people that was working class Dublin of 1913 and 1916 when the Union was in its infancy.

"There was such terrible poverty in those days, people were glad of any improvement. Larkin, now, he cut out a lot of bad practises in this town especially in the docks which were ruled by Barry of B & I and McCullough of Merchant Warehousing. They used to pay a man's wages in the pub and if there wasn't drink bought for the stevedores, you just didn't get any work, that's all. Larkin put a stop to that". Christopher Nolan's life is as varied and as dedicated to the organisation of Dublin workers as Jim Larkin's, if less heralded.

Citizen army

He was a member of the Irish Transport Workers Union at the age of 17 years — "I was tall for my age" — a member of the Citizen Army, the only man in his job at Walter Brownes to belong to the Union in 1916, when he first came into the Union. But then "there was very few in the Union in those days. There was only one branch in Liberty Hall with about eight thousand members. They moved to High St. then and started another branch and it began to grow from there".

He was driving a lorry, or steam wagon as it was called,

when he first joined up and after that he went on to work on the fuses, first on the old Blue Line and finally he ended his working life with CIE. He is retired ten years now but is still a member of the ITGWU, the union he knew as one struggling branch centred on Liberty Hall.

Although he did not join the ITWU (the 'G' did not enter its title until 1917, when the rules and name were changed at a meeting he remembers in the Mansion House) until 1916, he remembers well the agony of 1913, for his whole family had worked on the docks. The Citizens Army had been formed to protect the workers after Nolan was batoned to death on the quays, but then "the DMP wore no kid gloves in those days. You got the works anyway whether you were involved or not".

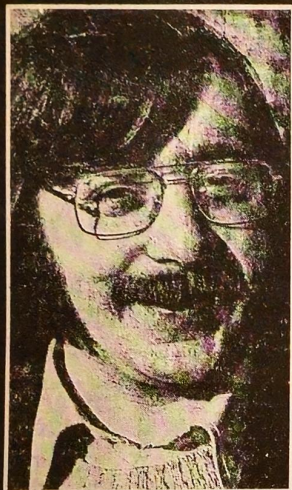
Volunteers

He was brought up in Erne St., just off Westland Row. From there he remembers how they used to bring up grub to the volunteers on the railway, during the 1916 Rebellion, although too young to take an active part in it himself.

Later he moved to Holles St. when he first married, paying ten shillings for a room, no small sum in the days when the average wage was little more than fifty bob. He now lives in St. Ultan's Flats, Charlemont St., built with public subscriptions by an old colleague from the early days of union struggle, Dr. Kathleen Lynn, to accommodate people displaced by the construction of St. Ultan's Childrens Hospital, in 1934.

It is a sign of the times that even here there is no peace. New landlords, who took the flats over from the Hospital last year, are putting pressure on the tenants, there for the best part of their lives, to pay higher rents or leave.

PEIGIN DOYLE



Palestinian revolution opposed to sectarianism

Pat Brady, President of U.S.I. (pictured top left) recently attended the seventh Congress of the Union of Palestinian Students in Algiers. He wrote us this report of the Congress:

The seventh Congress of the General Union of Palestinian Students (G.U.P.S.) took place in Algiers from 15-21 August, at a critical time for the Palestinian revolution. G.U.P.S. itself is composed of branches made up of Palestinian students studying abroad. However, G.U.P.S. is no ordinary union of students confined to discussing grants and students welfare. In the words of its President, Lami Kambardji, it is an 'integral part of the Palestinian revolution'. The slogan which dominated the Congress Hall read: 'Let us tighten our hands on our guns in order to prevent all settlements aimed at aborting our revolution', a fairly sound indication of the attitude of the Union.

The so-called 'Middle East' question is undoubtedly one of the most serious international questions in the world today. No one refers to the Irish question as the 'Western European' problem. Similarly there are problems in the Middle East; oil, reactionary Arab states, etc., as there are everywhere. In the accepted sense of the word, however, there is no Middle East problem—only a Palestinian problem!

It might be useful to consider the position of the Palestinian question following the October war. Even though the Egyptians have claimed that the Palestinian question was at the root of their new action, Palestinians regard Sadat as being solely concerned with solving the national pride of Egypt rather than restoring their homeland. Sadat's attitude to the U.S., indeed his reference to Kissinger as 'my friend, Henry' has done little for his popularity among the Palestinians. Sadat's politics are clearly less radical than his predecessors and it is said that he reversed the process of public ownership of farms, for example.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine sees the strategy of the U.S. in the Mediterranean as simple. Having realized that they need more, and

more stable bases, in the Middle East than Israel they have wooed Sadat with considerable success.

Objectively speaking any rapprochement between Sadat and the U.S.A. can only be diametrically opposed to the Palestinian interest. It is not very long since the October War when U.S. supplies to Israel helped to turn the tide of war against the Arabs.

It is in this confused setting that the G.U.P.S. delegates came to Algeria and the prospect of the Geneva Conference loomed large over all discussions. What the Palestinians say is, that U.S./U.S.S.R. detente or no, their revolution will not be comprised by political settlements in the interests of the U.S. or the Soviet Union.

The most they can hope for in a political settlement is a type of statelet in Gaza and on the West Bank, the latter being linked to Hussein's Jordan in a 'United Arab Kingdom' a sort of Arab Sunningdale! But considering Hussein's record, having bombed Palestinian camps some months ago and recently denied the right of the P.L.O. to speak for Palestinians in Jordan, Palestinians do not relish the thought of being sandwiched between Israel and Jordan and reject the idea of a Palestinian 'Free State' solution as impeding rather than contributing to their concept of a democratic secular Palestine.

The Palestinian revolution is of vital importance to the balance of power in the Mediterranean. The creation of a sectarian Zionist state in Palestine and the subsequent uprooting of the Palestinian people is the basis of today's problem. The Palestinians do not demand the obliteration of the Jewish people—there is a great difference between the Jewish faith and Zionism which is the agent of U.S. imperialism but merely the dismantling of the structures of this sectarian state.

The Irish Government should recognise the Palestinian Liberation Organisation as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Meanwhile the real support for the Palestinians must come from those around the world with similar views and a similar struggle.

ITGWU can cause major changes



The Irish Transport and General Workers' Union is developing increasingly along the lines of their European counterparts. They are deserting the British model which largely restricts the Union to pronouncing on matters related to wages and industrial issues only. In recent weeks there have been a series of statements from the top floor in Liberty Hall which indicate that the Union is beginning to exercise its muscle more and more in what would normally be described as the 'political field'.

The Union have kept in close touch with Minister for Industry and Commerce Mr. Justin Keating on the Tara crisis (see Page Six) and have made it abundantly clear that they are willing to go the whole way in backing Mr. Keating if he decides to nationalise the mines. No mean weight to have on his side in a Cabinet row.

Michael Mullen, General Secretary, ITGWU (pictured right), has also plunged into the meat row. It was his Limerick Branch which threatened to black the Tunisian Reefer if it was diverted from Dublin to Foynes to load intervention beef. And as Mr. Maher's IFA take to the roads in protest against falling farm incomes, it is expected that a major statement from ITGWU will be issued calling for a reassessment of the country's position within the European Economic Community.

And it is not only in the field of European politics that Liberty Hall's voice can be expected to be heard in the future. Sources close to Mr. Keating say that he is seriously disappointed at the Government's failure to tackle the Northern situation. He is known to have expressed the wish that a tougher line be taken with Britain on the key questions of internment and the role of the British Army.

Once again he can expect public support from the ITGWU, many of whose officials have strong republican links and members who have been and are imprisoned under the Emergency Provisions Act.

A new-style Transport Union would in fact be returning to the days of Connolly although it is unlikely that political involvement would be as intense. At any rate, the days of Union isolation would seem to be over and the wind of change blowing from the Liffey will certainly make some politicians feel the cold.

March 1974 was to mark the end of their jobs for 1,800 Scottish men and women employed by the Beverbrook group of newspapers. Or so it seemed.

On the 18th March the company announced that its offices in Glasgow, from which the Scottish Daily Express, the Scottish Sunday Express and the Evening Citizen were produced, was, along with the papers, about to get the chop. Closing date was to be the 30th of that month, giving ten working days notice to the men and women employed there.

Now six months later, those same workers are about to launch a first, both in the economic and publishing sphere. The Scottish Daily News, the first worker-owned and worker-controlled national newspaper, is on the drawing board.

Since the closure announcement, the former Beverbrook workers have established an Action Committee, organised meetings and marches to persuade the company to change its mind and when that proved ineffective have gone ahead to produce a blueprint for the first viable worker owned newspaper.

Once the decision to go it alone was made the first priority was to acquire plant and premises. To acquire this the Committee lobbied, by way of a day and night sit-in of the former offices, the Beverbrook company to give the ex-employees first option to buy their premises in Glasgow, when it came up for sale. The company finally agreed to the proposal and the Action Committee took over the offices of their former employers.

The concept behind the new newspaper is that it be owned and controlled by the producers, radically orientated but freely expressing the political, social, economic and cultural affairs of Scotland.

The paper, when launched, is to be self sustaining, from circulation and advertising revenue. Circulation is expected to present no problem.

To break even it is estimated that a sale of 200,000 should be the target. Much of that circulation is already guaranteed as 153,000, out of a total of 175,000 people approached, have agreed to purchase the paper for a three month trial period. With a sale of 250,000 the company would be well into the profit region. With a healthy circulation will come the vital advertising revenue from which the worker-company will derive the bulk of its revenue.

... The workers envisage a managerial structure whereby their company will be run by a Board comprised mainly of shop-floor representatives.

The Board is planned to consist of eight employees, that is, General Manager, Editor and six shop-floor representatives. Along with these there will be two representatives of outside investors, who will be elected by an Investor Advisory Council, whose brief is to safeguard the interests of outside investors.



Supporters of the Scottish Daily News who are seeking trade union backing for the worker controlled newspaper.

SCOTTISH JOURNAL CO-OP

Seen speaking at a meeting of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association is Mr. Paddy Joe McClean, Beragh, Co. Tyrone. Mr. McClean was one of the "hooded men" detained on August 9, 1971, whose torture case was heard recently by the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg.

The meeting, one of a series held by NICRA, centred on the question of internment in Long Kesh Concentration Camp, and the role of the British Army in the North.

Mr. McClean stated that the possibility of peace in the Six Counties depended first of all on the ending of the practice where men, women and children could be removed from their homes and imprisoned without charge or trial. He read from a security document which authorised the British Army to arrest and detain children above 10 years.

"In my opinion," he said, "this is the sort of authorisation which ensures the continuation of violence in our community. It is not possible to persuade ordinary citizens that the forces of law and order are other than totally arranged against them when their children are not free from such threats."

Mr. Joseph Deehan, Belfast CRA stressed the fact that the British Army only appeared in the working class areas. Their studies, he claimed, had revealed that road-blocks, personal searches and house raids occurred at a ratio of almost a hundred to one in these areas compared with middle class districts.

"Ghettos are by their nature, highly communal. If one person is attacked, the entire community suffers."

Fenian St. slum home offered for sale...

AND TO SINN FEIN FOR £3,000

In what must be one of the most unlikely business proposals to be made by a Dublin landlord, Sinn Fein have been offered for sale one slum, tenement house — without mod cons — for the sum of £3,000.

The house in question is No. 11, Fenian St., which has already featured in the pages of the Irish People.

In the issue dated 23 August we showed how the house, although accommodating eight families, is unfit for habitation and a risk to health, as the sewerage system is not functioning. Sewerage and household waste from the eight families has been building up in the basement area for up to two years, because the main sewerage pipe is broken and has now reached a depth of almost three feet.

Several other structural defects mar the house, which figured in the news some years ago when a large hole appeared in the exterior wall, causing the then occupants to be rehoused.

Possibly on the assumption that if you can't beat them you may as well join them, Mr. O'Reilly has now offered the house for sale.

The offer was made in a letter from Vincent and Beatty, solicitors, of 67 Fitzwilliam Square, an extract from which reads: "We act for Thomas O'Reilly of 21 Orwell Park, Rathgar. . . . Our client has now been ordered by The Dublin Corporation to eject the present occupants and HE HAS OFFERED THE PROPERTY TO THE DUBLIN CORPORATION AT A VERY LOW PRICE BUT THEY HAVE REFUSED TO PURCHASE IT. (Our emphasis.) He has instructed us that your organisation are interested in the welfare of the people occupying the property at the moment and he has asked us to offer it to you for the sum of £3,000."

Miss de Burca's reply was less than sympathetic.

"It is considerably kind of your client to offer us sub-standard accommodation to buy. Like the fox who had his tail cut off he is trying to convince us of the joys of the situation, I suppose. I really think that your occupation with harassing elderly women has convinced you that everyone else is as easy to deal with. However, it is good for your education and indeed Mr. O'Reilly's to discover that this is most untrue."

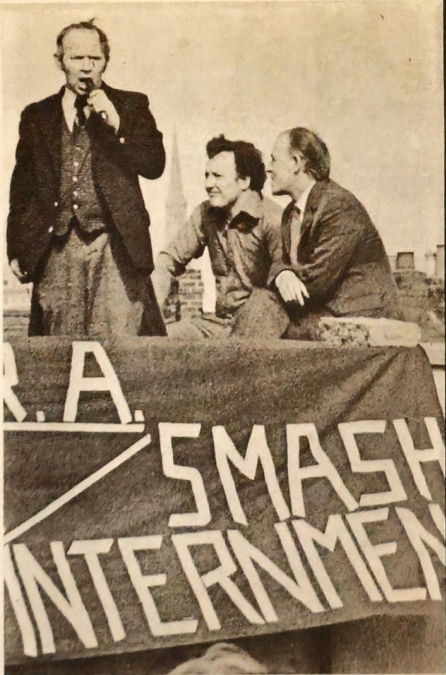
"Trusting that our refusal to buy his property will not cause undue financial hardship to Mr. O'Reilly."

Both Dublin Corporation and Vincent and Beatty are entangled in a housing tussle elsewhere in the city.

St. Ultan's Flats, in Charlemont St., built by public subscription in 1934, are presently in an uproar over the attempts of its landlords, Boston Manor Properties Ltd, to raise rents and force the tenants, mainly elderly, to completely redecorate their homes.

As in the case of 11, Fenian St., Dublin Corporation failed to buy the 33-flat complex when it came on the market last year.

And as in the case of 11 Fenian St., the landlords' solicitors and letter writers are — you've guessed it — Vincent and Beatty!



TARA JOBS LOSS BLOW

SAYS ITGWU

The Irish Transport and General Workers' Union are throwing their weight behind Justin Keating, Minister for Industry and Commerce, in the battle with the Tara Mining Company for control of the region's resources.

In a statement released last week following a meeting of the Executive General Officers of the Union, they support the call made by the Navan Branch Secretary, Mr. Andrew Connolly, on August 29 that the Government should make a positive declaration as to its intentions regarding this industry. As it is both the Union's policy and the policy of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions that all mineral resources should be nationalised, this recent move would seem to be a strengthening of the Trade Unions' demand for immediate action.

Redundancies, deliberate pay-offs, have already occurred due to the Company's decision to cease mining operations in an attempt to blackmail Mr. Keating.

One hundred and forty workers employed by P. J. Walls, John Pauls and Priority Construction have been laid off; 40 of the Canadian

skilled mining technicians have gone and 17 of the Irish trainee miners, also employed by Canadian Mine Services, have been paid off. The recruitment programme has also been stopped.

In their letter to the Minister, the ITGWU state, "Unless, therefore, the whole position is rationalised and clarified immediately, it seems certain that the whole operation at Tara will come to a complete standstill. If this happens and the skilled and technical people are not available to resume employment, it is clear that it will be a very long time before the operations can be put under way no matter what authority may be responsible for its direction and control in the future.

"In these circumstances we again urge you to make a public declaration of your intentions especially in the light of the full support and confidence placed in the Government by our Union, in the face of unemployment, insecurity and hardship now being suffered by the workers who have been caught up in a situation over which they have no influence."



Attempt at

Thermal insulation engineers employed by Cape Contracts and Newells, both of Sydenham Road, Belfast are angry at the attempt by the company to weish on the payment of £3.50 wage award back dated to October 1, 1973.

The companies have offered a derisory £21 which represents only six weeks money as opposed to the total amount due of £182.

At a meeting of 11/32 Branch of the ATGWU on Sunday last members decided against strike action in support of the established award as it was felt that the companies concerned were trying to get off the hook on certain contracts associated with Hatland and Wolffs.

A strike would automatically make null and void all penal clauses in the contracts.

The payment of the £3.50 wage increase was postponed in October last, due to the wage freeze, but since then the other finishing trades in both the Shipyard and Shorts, electricians, joiners and fitters, have all been paid the amount due.

In fact it is rumoured that the 'Yard anticipating a relatively early end to the freeze lodged the weekly rise with a Belfast bank!

The meeting agreed to accept the £21 offered by the companies but on the understanding that Union officials would open negotiations on the outstanding balance of £161.

The unanimous decision to postpone strike action was influenced by the fact that the winter holiday week was due and that no matter what the outcome of the strike the wage award would in effect only date, for basic pay purposes, from the date on which the strike would end.

pay
rise
cut

ON THE UP AND UP!..



Everything is on the up and up — if you are in the business world.

Figures for the first quarter of 1974, published by twenty eight of the country's public companies, report a rise both in pre and post-tax profits, directors fees and dividends paid out.

The figures, published by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, show that out of twenty-eight companies whose accounts were analysed only two made a loss, Irish Cinemas and the Insurance Corporation of Ireland. For the remainder the situation was brighter. Increases in pre-tax profits on the previous year ranged from a massive 478 per cent for Seaford Gentex, the textile group, 335 per cent for McCalrns Motors, to 26 per cent for the Dublin City Bank, down to 3 per cent for Dock Milling.

After tax was taken away, they could still carry a hefty load while crying on the way to the bank, with a profit increase of 32 per cent still to show after provision was made for taxation. This worked out at £295,401 for Seaford Gentex, £147,478 for McCalrns Motors while Irish Distillers Group Ltd. soaked up £1,274,611.

Company directors were well compensated for the exertions in the financial period. Their pay went up 19.5 per cent with a total payment of £747,000 spread between the twenty-eight companies. Thomas McCalrns, for instance, chairman of McCalrns Motors (pictured above) got his cut out of the tidy £46,263 McCalrns Motors paid to their directors in 1973 and no National Wage Agreement to worry about. Shareholders had to make do with an overall increase of 45 per cent in their dividends for the quarter.

IF
YOU'RE
A
COMPANY
DIRECTOR

WIN A NIGHTMARE HOME

A housing quiz. Guess which of these two estates was built for local authority tenants?

Both situated in South Finglas, Dublin, one estate of purchase houses was built by Grampton, the other estate by McInerney, to be rented from Dublin Corporation.

McInerney's Rathvilly estate, in South Finglas, has already become something of a byword in the annals of jerry-building.

Built on the lump for the NBA, the houses have revealed a number of serious structural defects. Within a year of their completion, fungus, caused by damp due to insufficient weathering of the exterior walls, disfigured many of the walls, while inadequate ventilation, bad drainage and woodwork and faulty electrical wiring also figure prominently among the complaints.

In a radio interview, Shane O'Hanlon, chairman of the NBA, admitted the existence of structural defects in at least one house and the tenant, Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick, has since been rehoused.

That is a clue. The sender of the first correct solution will win a McInerney 'dream home'.



TOWARDS STATE OIL CONTROL

THE GOVERNMENT of Abu Dhabi has increased its participation in those oil companies operating in the Persian Gulf state from 25% to 60%. Agreement with the companies came last week after the oil firms had walked out of earlier talks. There has been a twelve hour break in the negotiations, which Oil Minister Maneh Said Al Oteiba described as delaying tactics by the companies.

Within half an hour of talks resuming, the agreement was signed.

The two companies affected by the agreement are Abu Dhabi Areas and Abu Dhabi Petroleum Company, which group BP, the Japanese Overseas Petroleum Company, Compagnie Francaise Des Petroles, Shell and Mobil-Exxon.

The agreement which is retrospective to January 1st, also provides for the sale by the Abu Dhabi Government of a

part of its oil share at 11.80 dollars per barrel. The rest of its share will be sold through the National Petroleum Company of Abu Dhabi. The foreign oil companies have agreed to pay Abu Dhabi over 500 million dollars, which represents the total of back payments owed by them since January. Maneh Said Al Oteiba said that exploitation of natural gas, which Abu Dhabi considers national property, was not negotiated. "If the companies want to exploit our natural gas, they must buy it from the state," he said.

"The agreement is a blend of the two agreements concluded between the companies and Kuwait and Saudi Arabia," he added, "but our agreement provides the maximum benefit for our people. This agreement is a model. We invite other Gulf states to follow it and sign similar agreements." Perhaps Mr. Keating will take note!

Dublin Corporation's security bill, is steadily mounting and has reached £25,000 per month at the last count. But another aspect of the Corporation's security network has aroused some controversy in recent weeks, that is the methods employed by such firms to withstand the incursions of squatters.

The issue was highlighted by the activity of one of the Corporation's main security firms, National Security, 7 The Angle, Ranelagh, when, in an incident in Ballymun recently, nine men kicked down the door of a flat and physically dragged a mother and eight children from the flat in which they were squatting.

The incident aroused protest from a number of public figures and some newly elected Councillors have undertaken to pursue the matter with the Corporation. If they do, an interested follower of the proceedings may be former Taoiseach, Jack Lynch, whose aide-de-camp at the last General Election is now one of the directors of of National Security Services.

John O'Brien, 50A Oakley Rd., retired early from his position as ADC to pursue security work. He is son-in-law to the late Taoiseach, Sean Lemass.

Other directors in the firm are also long-standing members of Fianna Fail.

Housing security questions

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FROM PAGE ONE

Although we realise this submission is private, we feel that in the interests of the entire country that the views contained in it should be made public immediately.

In a personal addendum to the submission Mr. Burton states "I am gravely concerned, even shocked, at the decision to terminate the work of the small group of people on the Commission's staff that have been directly responsible for a great deal of discussion between factions, and for a lessening of violence. They are the only organised group working in a positive way. Clearly they are acting on hypotheses that do not conform with those of the army and the Northern Ireland office. In my view they are better informed and have a more realistic perspective. They are not alien and can identify with both parties whose confidence they have. I am aware of the reasons given for this decision. They are not persuasive or even accurate."

Mr. Burton would seem here to be challenging the veracity of the statements made by Mr. Ivan Cooper on April 3 last. And sections of the submission flatly contradict Mr. Cooper's views.

For example: Para 6, "Suppression is self defeating. In practice the Army has acted on the set of hypotheses reflected in the Secretary of State's terms of reference, and has accordingly carried out searches, organised informers, and escalated internment. It has been assumed that law and order can be maintained by suppression, pending a political settlement. There is evidence that at least in the current circumstances the acts of suppression themselves are now a major source of violence. This is a view held by both extremist parties, and also by members of the various political parties."

Para 8, "These discussions signalled altered policies by the Army and the Northern Ireland Office, to encourage and make possible discussion within and between communities. Both were kept informed. However, both apparently saw dangers in these developments. The Army maintained the need to continue searches and internment and its role in Northern Ireland which it values: 'It could not be pushed out'. The Northern Ireland Office argued that 'wider implications' had to be taken into account, by which was probably meant that these discussions could move in the direction of an independent Northern Ireland, which itself has wider security and strategic implications. A suggested initiative by the Community Relations Commission to convene a conference of relevant persons was discouraged by the Northern Ireland Office on the grounds that "It could not be controlled".

Efforts therefore by the Commission to de-escalate violence were either discouraged or subsequently sabotaged by the British Army and the Northern Ireland Office.

For example: Para 9, "The Army had been responsible for copying and releasing to the press the confidential agenda of the three day (Ulster Workers' Council) conference including proposals for discussions with the IRA, thus embarrassing the leadership of the Protestant para-military groups."

It must be concluded therefore that Mr. Cooper, in disbanding the Community Relations Commission was not intent on serving the interests of the people of the North but was rather acting, albeit possibly un-knowingly, in the interests of the British Army and the Northern Ireland Office.

On one point certainly Mr. Cooper was correct, at least correct in the sense that his

agenda leaked to press

explanation was in keeping with the unexpressed desire of the Northern Ireland Office.

Para 10, "The policies of the Northern Ireland Office were no less self-defeating in so far as it appeared to be cultivating traditional politicians — the elected representatives — in a situation where altered political alignments had made them less relevant, and in so far as it was discouraging discussion between emerging factions and the Secretary of State, or even discussions among these new factions."

What is even more serious not only as regards Mr. Cooper but the SDLP as a whole is the conclusion arrived at in Para 12, sub-section (vi) of the submission: "The issue of independence should not be avoided. The referendum which gave a choice between Dublin or Westminster, Sunningdale, which seemed to imply some association with the Republic, and official discouragement of open discussion among the factions involved, were all presumably dictated by a desire to ensure that there could not be an independent Northern Ireland. The independence issue is not one Britain should fear if discussed openly. But any attempt to contrive an outcome, such as the Constitution which Makarios finally rejected in Cyprus, will be self-defeating."

Mr. Burton may be considered to be an academic outsider but attached to the submission is a statement made on July 6, 1974, by the Director of Community Relations, David Rowlands, Bedford House, Belfast. It is claimed that, "he was fully aware of what was going on privately within and between para-military leaders: what he was saying reflected grass-roots reality, and his proposals were thus practical. Throughout he was implying that policy makers were not being helpful."

And what exactly had Mr. Rowlands got to say and what was it that would so annoy the leaders of the SDLP? His speech was made to the Conference on Politics and Community Action at the Institute of Continuing Education, we quote from part of it:

"Do we want to see the domination of one religious group by the other and an indefinite continuation of sectarian politics?"

"Or do we want to live and work together in this community, preserving our separate and individual identities?"

Mr. Rowlands is obviously a man not content to simply put the questions, he also provides the



answers. He rejects the continuation of internment.

Para 2, "At the same time we must demand the immediate end to that other form of legalised violence against the individual, detention without trial. If the British Government is sincere in its wish to see all Ulster citizens participate in the debate about its future, then let them release all detainees now without precondition."

And this would seem to be the critical point of departure from Mr. Cooper and possibly Mr. Craig. The unconditional ending of internment has been rejected by the professional politicians of all shades. Such advice is usually preconditioned by the insistence on the need to end violence, without as the Commission correctly points out, the need to end all violence, including the violence of the British Army.

Here Mr. Rowlands is particularly critical. He calls in Para 3: "In the event of an agreed ceasefire between the para-military groups there must be an immediate response from the British Government on the withdrawal of troops to barracks and the ending of searches and harassment of the local communities."

The Irish People believes that this is one of the most important documents submitted to the Gardiner Committee. It is an argument for sanity and for the end of sectarian confrontations in the North. It is a heart cry which will be understood by the majority of the working class people of the ghettos. It puts the responsibility for the continuing downgrade in community relations on the people concerned. It is a challenge to the Governments of Britain and the 26 Counties and it is a reminder of the possible abuse that can be made of power by parties that entered into the Northern Assembly Executive.

